

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

## 27th Annual Convocation



Address

*by*

**K. N. Chatterjee**

*Vice-Chancellor*

**RAJA RAMMOHUNPUR**

**14th December, 1994**

Honourable Chancellor, Sir, Dr. Ashoke Mitra, our respected Chief Guest, Members of the Court, the Executive Council, Faculty Councils, Under-Graduate Councils, Teachers, Officers, Non-teaching colleagues, Students and Guests,

The University of North Bengal holds the twenty-seventh Annual Convocation on this day, the fourteenth of December, 1994. I welcome you all on this solemn occasion.

It is a matter of honour for us that the Honourable Chancellor has been so kind as to be with us, this morning. His presence is a matter of encouragement for us. I express my gratitude to him.

The fact that in spite of a very busy schedule Dr. Ashoke Mitra has done us a great favour in having agreed to be the Chief Guest to this Convocation is a matter of real pleasure for us. We are thankful to him.

A university is such an institution as addresses itself to the task of maintaining and preserving the cultural ethos the country has so zealously preserved for the posterity while educating the students in different disciplines of academic pursuits. Perhaps, that, too, is not enough.

The world we are accustomed to live in has, of late, undergone a very serious change. Living in an independent country and yet in an interdependent world, it is imperative that the points of our strength as well of weakness are identified and students are equipped accordingly.

The University, therefore, must develop such a system of education as must aim at arousing quest for knowledge in a student and show him the path of truth, wisdom and meaning. It is only a coherent system of education that can enlighten the present day students in respect of socio-economic and cultural settings of the changing world and inculcate in them the sense of responsibility and self-reliance.

I am happy to announce that our University is fully aware of its responsibilities and is trying hard to face the challenges. Our teachers, students, officers, non-teaching colleagues are determined to develop this university into an institution dedicated to the task of shaping and moulding the destiny of our society of to-morrow. We are in search for the meaning and aim of life and I appreciate the services of each and every individual of the university community and I express my thanks to them all.

I am thankful as well to the members of the Court, Executive Council, the Faculty Councils, the Under-Graduate Councils and all other bodies for their advice, guidance and necessary support. I am thankful to the State Government also for timely financial support.

This year, 72 scholars were awarded the Ph. D. degree and the number of students who received the M. Phil degree is 26. The number of students who passed the different examinations of the University is as follows :

A. B. A./B. Sc./B. Com. Examinations (1991 & 92)		No. of students who passed the Exam.
(i) B. A. Honours	—	1898
B. A. Division	—	2723
B. A. Pass	—	7963
B. A. One Subject	—	770
B. A. Special Honours	—	437
B. A. ( Law )	—	35
(ii) B. Sc. Honours	—	534
B. Sc. Division	—	722
B. Sc. Pass	—	559
B. Sc. Special Honours	—	35
(iii) B. Com. Honours	—	291
B. Com. Division	—	1121
B. Com. Pass	—	2042
B. Com. Special Honours	—	06
B. B. E. Examination	—	247
C. LL. B. Examination ( 3 Years )	—	284
LL. B. Examination ( 5 Years )	—	36

B. Ed. Examination		
(i) B. Ed. Class	—	1311
(ii) B. Ed. Pass	—	25
(iii) B. Ed. Compart	—	12
E. M. B. B. S. Examination ( 1990 & 1991 )	—	88
F. M. A./M. Sc./M. Com. Examinations ( 1990 & 1991 )		
i) M. A. Class ( including Extr. candidates )	—	757
ii) M. A. Class with Distn.	—	157
iii) M. Sc. Class	—	233
iv) M. Sc. Class with Distn.	—	78
v) M. Com. Class ( including Extr. candidates )	—	93
vi) M. Com. Class with Distn.	—	12
vii) M. Sc. Class ( D. G. C )	—	44
viii) M. Sc. Class in the Distn. ( D. G. C. )	—	10
ix) M. C. A.	—	51
G. Diploma in Physical Education ( Class ) 1991 & 92	—	39
H. Diploma in Physical Education ( Pass ) 1991 & 92	—	01
I. B. Lib & Information Sc. 1992 & 93	—	79
J. D. C. A. 1990 & 1991	—	27

The number of recipients of medals is 192 and of book-prizes 08.

The Faculties, as usual, have kept themselves busy with teaching and research and the quality of research done in this University is a matter of envy with many universities of the country. It was a matter of utter despair when the University had to stop subscription of foreign journals and periodicals since but for these no meaningful research work can hardly be done particularly in science. But in spite of all such odds, the departments have kept on maintaining their tradition and have sustained their activities in diverse fields of investigation.

Fortunately for us, since the last session things have started looking up and a very small provision has been made towards subscription of foreign journals and periodicals. The situation, I believe, will gradually improve to meet the requirements. The response of the State Government is appreciably encouraging.

Supply of research materials through computer services in the library, too, has eased, to some extent, at least, the want of journals and periodicals.

At the moment, there is a good number of research projects, both major and minor, that are being worked upon by teachers and scholars in the University.

Teachers of various departments have published a number of research papers in well known national and international journals and these have been highly acclaimed by scholars.

Seminars and workshops are an integral part of the university activities. For paucity of funds, however, most of the departments could not hold seminars or workshops.

The Department of Political Science, however, received some Grant for holding a Refresher Course and the first part of the said Course has been very successfully completed, while the second part is likely to be held during the month of February next year.

It is heartening to note in this connection that the quantum of unassigned grant from the U. G. C. has increased and from now on the departments will be in a position to devote more on seminar and the like other activities. Teachers and scholars will get an opportunity, henceforth, to participate in seminars held outside as well and as a result avenues of academic interaction will be further broadened.

This University has an area study centre for Himalayan Studies. It undertakes mainly socio-scientific studies of the Eastern Himalayan regions of Tibet, Bhutan, Sikkim, Darjeeling and Arunachal Pradesh.

Recently, a visiting team of the U. G. C. came for review and I am glad to announce that the said team has gone with full satisfaction with the performance of the centre.

The North Bengal University Law College has introduced the LL. M. Course and the Part - I LL. M. examination is scheduled to be held next month.

The Publication Deptt. has brought out an issue of the North Bengal University Review and a number of books is in the process of publication.

The Sports Board organised a number of inter-college tournaments like football, volleyball, table-tennis, badminton, athletic and cricket and the university teams of Badminton and Table-Tennis participated in inter-university tournaments.

The University has a museum known as Akshaya Kumar Maitreya Museum and it has added a good number of stone sculptures of Pala-Sena schools to its ageold treasure of artefacts. A unique silver coin of Empress Victoria has been collected by Prof. K. N. Chatterjee, Vice-Chancellor of the University for the museum.

It is a matter of great pleasure for us that U. G. C. has sanctioned an amount of five lakhs of rupees for the purpose of constructing a building for the museum.

Incidentally, it remains to be mentioned that the building for Life Sciences ( Botany & Zoology ), the building for the Centre of Himalayan Studies and the Gymnasium have been completed while the buildings of the Deptt. of Nepali, extension of the Guest House and of the Non-teaching staff quarters are yet to be completed.

One hostel for the SC/ST lady students is to be raised very soon for which necessary grants from the Govt. of West Bengal have been made available.

Removal of illiteracy, creating environmental awareness, eradication of social injustice, restoration of human rights, too, are on the agenda of activities of this University for but for all this a scientific temper cannot develop in the society and but for scientific temper the social evils of superstition, fundamentalism or communalism cannot be fought out.

The University runs a Coaching Centre that trains up students for various competitive examinations and it has been making a steady progress. I wish it develops further to cater the needs of the students of this remote region.

A few departments, too, are making some exercises towards the introduction of some short-term self-financing courses like cultural tourism, eco-tourism, labour management, fishery, sericulture and so on. A garden of rare herbal plants, too, is being raised by the Department of Botany.

The idea of introducing a course on Tea Science and Management too, has not been totally abandoned.

Dr. Biswanath Chakraborty and Anandagopal Mukherjee have done very meaningful research on tea and it will be unfortunate if for want of patronage and fund we cannot utilise the expertise of these two teachers and good will and enthusiasm of many other teachers to develop the discipline of Tea Science in this part of the country.

The university sincerely desired that the expertise of the university be duly utilised by the tea-industry and the university gets adequate financial support from the said industry so that further research could be done on tea at the university.

The university has been looking forward for help and assistance from various industries and particularly from the tea industry. I wish the university gets due response in this regard.

Incidentally, the department of Chemistry of this university has launched a programme of soil-testing and quite a good number of tea-gardens is getting the benefit of this programme. I am happy that the university services are being made available to the local industry.

The North Bengal Medical College has kept on imparting medical education to a group of socially committed students of promise and so is the case with the Govt. Engineering College, Jalpaiguri. The North Bengal Dental College, too, has earned a name for itself.

Some of the Colleges have started opting for the introduction of Vocational courses in certain disciplines for which financial support both from U. G. C. and the State Govt. is likely to come. The Coochbehar College has already received a good amount of money for the said purpose from the U. G. C. I wish many other colleges come forward with proposals for Vocational courses.

Before I end, I once more convey my good wishes to the recipients of degrees and diplomas and I wish them a grand success in life.

With this, I conclude and I thank everyone of you present here.

Namaskara.